

Human beings are complicated, so are our relationships. We have 4 primary relationships in life – Allah ﷻ, Rasool ﷺ, Family & Humanity.

Our immediate families are blood related - **SILAT-AR-RAHIM** - our relationships are formed from the womb by Al-Rahman.

*And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. (4:1)*

**MAINTAINING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS** is not a choice. It's an obligation - Cutting off blood relations is haram – it is prohibited.

*The bond of family is suspended from the Throne: Whoever upholds me, Allah will uphold him. Whoever severs me, Allah will sever him. (Bukhari)*

**STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AT HOME** - Goodness begins with your kin just as charity begins at home. There is no point being nice outside, if you are not nice at home. Kindness and caring should be the default with your paternal/maternal families.

*The best among you is the best to his family. (Tirmidhi)*

**THE PILLARS OF SOCIETY** - strong families equals a strong community.

*O people! Spread Salam, feed the needy, connect blood ties... (Tirmidhi).*

Foundations of a successful society, greeting, feeding, connecting people.

**FIXING FAMILY RELATIONS** - having good relationships with your family isn't easy, but earning Jannah isn't either! Sometimes we have to suffer embarrassment, difficulties, bite our tongue, not answer back to our elders. It's not always a smooth ride. Keep trying to fix rather than break.

*O Allah's Messenger, I maintain ties, but they sever. I treat them well, but they treat me ill. I am sweet to them but they are harsh towards me... An angel will support you & keep being righteous. (Muslim).*

**TROUBLESOME FAMILY MEMBERS** - those we can't see eye to eye, intrusive, nosey or interfering. You might argue that keeping away from them is better for your sanity and gives you peace. However if we all severed ties with them, we would have a broken community.

**DO NOT ALLOW EMOTIONS TO BREAK DOWN RELATIONSHIPS – BE JUST**

We need to support one another, not avoid or be unjust. Difficulties always generate floods of emotions, and problems are intensified when we let emotions be the sole driver of relationships.

*Do not let the hatred of some people drive you to deal unjustly. Be just this is closer to taqwa. And fear Allah ; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do. (5:8)*

## **DO NOT TOLERATE ABUSE**

Being good to relatives does not mean being a doormat, or letting yourself be abused or exploited. Under the banner of connecting blood ties, you must not allow yourself to be victimised. You have the right to protect yourself with politeness and wisdom. We need to keep the boundaries and limits. If someone is bad to you, you can't be bad to them, then you are no different. But respond better

*And the good deed and the evil deed will never be equal; Repel the evil deed with a good one, thereupon the one between whom and you was enmity, will become like a close friend. (41:34)*

*And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good. (2:195)*

## **WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU?**

When you make an effort to be good to your family and build relationships, the rewards are not just in Jannah or acceptance of Allah, but also tangible in the Dunya – they are a clear means of increasing your Rizq, Blessings and Lifespan.

*He who desires ample provisions and his life be prolonged, should maintain good ties with his blood relations. (Bukhari)*